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Area Wage Survey
Raleigh-Durham, NC
May 1985

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U.S. Department of Labor
Bureau of Labor Statistics
Summary
June 1985

This summary presents results of a May 1985 survey of occupational wages in the Raleigh-Durham Standard Metropolitan Statistical Area, which consists of Durham, Orange, and Wake Counties. This is 1 of 99 areas which the Bureau of Labor Statistics surveys at the request of the Employment Standards Administration of the U.S. Department of Labor for use in administering the Service Contract Act of 1965. In addition, the Bureau conducts more extensive studies of occupational wages and related benefits in 71 other areas throughout the United States. For information on these reports and other Bureau publications, contact any BLS regional office identified on the back page.

This study covered establishments employing 50 workers or more in manufacturing; transportation, communication, and other public utilities; wholesale trade; retail trade; finance, insurance, and real estate; and selected services. A sample of 103 establishments employing 52,053 workers was selected to represent 406 establishments employing 100,910 workers in the area. (See table 2 for further information on the scope of the survey.) Data collected in the sample of establishments were projected to represent all establishments within the scope of the survey.

Table 1 provides hourly earnings information on office and plant workers employed in selected occupations common to a variety of industries. Occupational classification was based on a uniform set of job descriptions designed to take account of variations in job duties among establishments. The job descriptions used in the survey are available on request.

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Table 1. Hourly earnings[1] of selected occupations in Raleigh-Durham, NC, May 1985

Occupation[2]	Number of workers	Hourly earnings (all workers)[1]			Number of workers receiving straight-time hourly earnings (in dollars) of —																					
		Mean	Median	Middle range	3.35 and under 3.50	3.50 – 4.00	4.00 – 4.50	4.50 – 5.00	5.00 – 5.50	5.50 – 6.00	6.00 – 6.50	6.50 – 7.00	7.00 – 7.50	7.50 – 8.00	8.00 – 8.50	8.50 – 9.00	9.00 – 9.50	9.50 – 10.00	10.00 – 10.50	10.50 – 11.00	11.00 – 12.00	12.00 – 13.00	13.00 – 14.00	14.00 – 15.00	15.00 – 16.00	16.00 – 17.00	17.00 – 18.00
Secretaries	1,462	8.54	8.25	7.13– 9.75	–	–	–	8	24	73	82	105	202	159	154	125	74	118	95	87	87	42	20	4	2	1	–
Secretaries I	383	7.51	7.59	6.43– 8.49	–	–	–	8	12	37	43	59	23	51	71	23	7	49	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Secretaries II	229	7.30	7.13	7.13– 7.75	–	–	–	–	6	2	22	15	96	60	22	5	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Secretaries III	442	8.65	8.80	7.35–10.12	–	–	–	–	6	34	17	27	38	22	34	71	36	39	66	25	24	3	–	–	–	–	–
Secretaries IV	368	9.93	10.10	8.31–11.09	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	4	45	24	26	23	30	28	27	61	55	25	16	3	1	–	–
Secretaries V	36	12.07	12.45	11.22–12.82	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	1	–	2	2	1	8	14	4	1	1	1	–
Typists	70	6.01	5.90	5.19– 6.20	–	–	–	10	11	18	24	4	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	2	–	–	1	–	–	–	–
Typists I	65	6.07	5.95	5.25– 6.20	–	–	–	6	11	18	24	3	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	2	–	–	1	–	–	–	–
File clerks	130	4.72	4.63	4.14– 4.96	–	16	30	55	9	11	5	3	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
File clerks I	105	4.54	4.62	4.14– 4.77	–	16	30	49	1	3	3	3	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
File clerks II	21	5.53	5.50	5.00– 5.54	–	–	–	6	4	8	2	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Messengers	25	5.20	5.25	5.00– 5.33	–	–	–	6	16	3	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Receptionists	20	5.40	4.96	4.62– 5.75	–	–	–	12	1	3	1	1	–	1	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Switchboard operators	70	5.64	5.31	4.76– 6.58	–	–	7	12	20	4	8	9	8	1	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Key entry operators	455	6.27	6.21	5.48– 7.08	4	14	14	29	67	68	75	58	50	38	26	5	1	3	2	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	–
Key entry operators I	373	6.12	6.00	5.31– 6.85	4	14	14	29	59	66	57	43	36	18	23	5	–	3	2	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Key entry operators II	82	6.96	6.88	6.29– 7.52	–	–	–	–	8	2	18	15	14	20	3	–	1	–	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	–
Computer operators	313	8.60	8.58	7.57– 9.53	–	–	–	–	–	18	13	26	15	43	27	41	50	23	21	14	18	3	1	–	–	–	–
Computer operators I	142	7.73	7.56	6.55– 8.85	–	–	–	–	–	18	13	22	15	22	9	11	16	8	3	–	4	–	1	–	–	–	–
Computer operators II	109	9.00	8.78	8.43– 9.42	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	4	–	9	18	30	26	6	3	6	5	2	–	–	–	–	–
Drafters	195	9.59	9.68	7.88–10.81	–	–	–	–	–	–	4	2	18	27	16	9	13	12	37	27	14	7	4	5	–	–	–
Drafters II	56	8.10	7.55	7.21– 7.94	–	–	–	–	–	–	4	2	18	18	2	–	–	–	–	12	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Drafters III	77	9.36	9.33	8.27–10.40	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	9	14	8	11	7	21	3	4	–	–	–	–	–	–
Drafters IV	46	10.58	10.36	10.05–10.89	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	2	5	16	12	8	2	–	–	–	–	–
Drafters V	16	13.13	13.40	12.29–14.04	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	2	5	4	5	–	–	–
Electronics technicians	427	12.98	12.40	12.00–14.70	–	–	–	–	–	–	6	–	–	1	4	6	4	8	27	21	26	137	66	27	52	20	22
Electronics technicians II	236	12.74	12.34	12.34–13.75	–	–	–	–	–	–	6	–	–	1	4	5	–	–	3	3	5	128	47	12	10	2	10
Maintenance carpenters	31	11.32	12.22	7.40–13.49	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	8	–	2	–	–	–	2	–	–	9	3	–	7	–	–
Maintenance electricians	140	12.25	12.36	9.90–15.00	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	16	2	4	10	–	9	–	–	10	44	3	–	26	2	14
Maintenance painters	12	11.43	11.85	– –	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	1	–	–	–	–	–	2	–	3	3	–	2	–	–	–
Maintenance machinists	58	13.78	13.52	11.60–17.51	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	9	–	–	1	3	3	1	22	–	2	1	16
Maintenance mechanics (machinery)	83	10.08	9.82	8.40–12.59	–	–	–	–	–	–	3	4	–	13	9	8	–	9	–	–	14	14	9	–	–	–	–
Maintenance pipefitters	36	15.01	15.00	13.07–16.76	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	4	3	3	–	14	4	8
Motor vehicle mechanics	157	10.55	11.39	8.20–13.17	–	–	–	–	–	2	5	–	3	1	44	15	–	2	–	4	29	10	27	11	2	–	2
General maintenance workers	157	6.29	5.80	4.50– 7.31	–	–	26	14	34	14	13	1	22	2	10	–	4	4	4	9	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Tool and die makers	266	12.95	12.80	12.80–13.52	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	5	143	118	–	–	–	–
Stationary engineers	25	11.37	10.73	9.60–13.26	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	2	–	2	–	2	2	–	5	–	–	12	–	–	–	–
Truckdrivers	662	10.46	10.50	10.27–11.60	–	–	–	5	60	36	24	–	7	2	13	–	10	–	165	68	113	–	2	157	–	–	–
Truckdrivers, medium truck	236	11.85	10.68	10.30–14.14	–	–	–	–	8	4	–	–	1	–	4	–	4	–	61	40	2	–	1	111	–	–	–
Truckdrivers, tractor-trailer	370	10.01	10.30	9.33–11.60	–	–	–	–	52	32	2	–	2	–	–	–	6	–	100	19	111	–	–	46	–	–	–
Material handling laborers	116	7.43	7.08	6.51– 8.90	–	4	4	4	–	2	–	44	–	8	10	27	–	1	11	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	–
Forklift operators	390	7.89	7.37	6.20– 9.95	–	–	10	2	2	–	117	13	73	–	56	4	9	48	39	–	–	15	2	–	–	–	–
Guards:																											
Guards I	821	4.15	3.50	3.50– 3.75	94	532	47	26	43	12	4	16	13	1	5	1	6	7	1	–	–	–	13	–	–	–	–
Janitors, porters, and cleaners	1,251	4.35	3.50	3.35– 4.50	612	243	82	71	28	64	15	22	28	31	8	2	–	–	–	–	–	45	–	–	–	–	–

[1] Excludes premium pay for overtime and for work on weekends, holidays, and late shifts. Also excluded are performance bonuses and lump-sum payments of the type negotiated in the auto and aerospace industries, as well as profit-sharing payments, attendance bonuses, Christmas or year-end bonuses, and other nonproduction bonuses. Cost of living allowances and incentive payments, however, are included. Hourly earnings reported for salaried workers are derived from regular salaries divided by the corresponding standard hours of work. The wages of learners, apprentices, and handicapped workers are excluded. The mean is computed for each job by totaling the earnings of all workers and dividing by the number of workers. The median designates position—one-half of the workers receive the same as or more and one-half receive the same as or less than the rate shown. The middle range is defined by two rates of pay; one-fourth of the workers earn the same as or less than the lower of these rates and one-fourth earn the same as or more than the higher rate.

[2] For occupations with more than one level, data are included in the overall classification when a subclassification is not shown or information to subclassify is not available.

Table 2. Establishments and workers within scope of survey and number studied in Raleigh-Durham, NC,[1] May 1985

Industry division[2]	Minimum employment in establishments in scope of survey	Number of establishments		Workers in establishments		
		Within scope of survey[3]	Studied	Within scope of survey[4]		Studied
				Number	Percent	
All divisions	50	406	103	100,910	100	52,053
Manufacturing	50	108	25	43,778	43	24,470
Nonmanufacturing[5]	50	298	78	57,132	57	27,583

[1] The Raleigh-Durham Standard Metropolitan Statistical Area, as defined by the Office of Management and Budget through February 1974, consists of Durham, Orange, and Wake Counties. The "workers within scope of survey" estimates shown in this table provide a reasonably accurate description of the size and composition of the labor force included in the survey. The estimates are not intended, however, to serve as a basis of comparison with other statistical series for the area to measure employment trends or levels since (1) planning of wage surveys requires the use of establishment data compiled considerably in advance of the payroll period studied, and (2) small establishments are excluded from the scope of the survey.

[2] The 1972 edition of the Standard Industrial Classification Manual was used in classifying establishments by industry division.

[3] Includes all establishments with total employment at or above the minimum limitation. All outlets of companies in such industries as trade, finance, auto repair service, and motion picture theaters (within a Standard Metropolitan Statistical Area or nonmetropolitan county) are considered as one establishment.

[4] Includes all workers in all establishments with total employment (within the area) at or above the minimum limitation.

[5] Includes transportation, communication, and other public utilities (excluding taxicabs and services incidental to water transportation); wholesale trade; retail trade; finance, insurance, and real estate; hotels and other lodging places; laundries and other personal services; automobile repair, rental, and parking; motion pictures; nonprofit membership organizations (excluding religious and charitable organizations); engineering and architectural services; and miscellaneous business services. Major industries excluded from this survey are agriculture; mining; construction; some services (notably educational institutions and medical services); and government operations.

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